

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ stable glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD)-peptide-specific Class II MHC complex which comprises ~~DNA encoding an antigenic peptidic sequence which binds to a Class II MHC molecule and DNA encoding~~ (1) the extracellular portion of the β chain of said a Class II MHC molecule, wherein said peptidic sequence which specifically binds to a Class II MHC molecule is an autoantigen selected from the group consisting of I-Aq7 and DQ, and (2) a GAD peptide that binds to said Class II MHC molecule.
2. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid according to~~ The complex of claim 1 which further comprises ~~DNA encoding the~~ extracellular portion of the α chain of said Class II MHC molecule.
3. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid according to~~ The complex of claim 1, wherein said Class II MHC β chain lacks a complete transmembrane region.
4. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid according to~~ The complex of claim 2, wherein said Class II MHC β chain and said Class II MHC α chain lack complete transmembrane regions.
5. (Canceled).

6-9. (Canceled herein).

10. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ The complex of claim 9, 1, wherein said ~~DNA encoding a fragment of glutamic acid decarboxylase~~ GAD peptide ~~comprises~~ is a sequence peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 1-13 or ~~immunologically equivalent variants or fragments thereof.~~

11. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ The complex of claim 1, 10, wherein said ~~DNA encoding a~~ GAD peptide sequence ~~which specifically binds to said Class II MHC molecule encodes~~ is SEQ ID NO: 1.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ The complex of claim 1, 10, wherein said ~~DNA encoding a~~ GAD peptide sequence ~~which specifically binds to said Class II MHC molecule encodes~~ is SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ The complex of claim 1 which further comprises ~~DNA encoding~~ a biotinylation site.

14. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ The complex of claim 1 which further comprises ~~DNA encoding~~ an oligohistidine sequence.

15. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ The complex of claim 2 which further comprises ~~DNA encoding~~ a biotinylation site.

16. (Currently amended) ~~A recombinant nucleic acid~~ The complex of claim 2 which further comprises ~~DNA encoding~~ an oligohistidine sequence.

17-22. (Canceled herein).

23. (Currently amended) A ~~recombinant protein~~ stable glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD)-peptide-specific Class II MHC complex which comprises ~~a preselected peptidic antigen which binds to a Class II MHC molecule,~~ (1) the extracellular portion of a β chain of said a Class II MHC molecule selected from the group consisting of I-Ag7 and DQ, and (2) the extracellular portion of an α chain of said Class II MHC molecule, wherein said preselected peptide antigen is an autoantigen, and (3) a GAD peptide that binds to said Class II MHC molecule.

24. ~~A recombinant protein according to~~ The complex of claim 23 which further comprises a biotinylation site.

25. ~~A recombinant protein according to~~ The complex of claim 23 which further comprises an oligohistidine sequence.

26. (Canceled).

27-31. (Canceled herein).

32. ~~A stable molecular~~ The complex according to ~~of~~ claim ~~30~~ 24 which further comprises a biotin covalently linked to said ~~recombinant protein~~ biotinylation site.

33. ~~A stable molecular~~ The complex ~~according to~~ of claim ~~30~~ 32 which further comprises an effector-avidin bound to said biotin.

34. ~~A stable molecular~~ The complex ~~according to~~ of claim 33, wherein said effector is selected from the group consisting of a label and a toxin.

35. (Canceled herein).

36-48. (Canceled).

49-52. (Canceled herein).

53. (New) The complex of claim 1 which is a tetrameric complex.

54. (New) The complex of claim 23 which is a tetrameric complex.